

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Potamogeton perfoliatus - clasping leaf pondweed Pondweed Family (Potamogetonaceae)

Rarity Rank: SH/G5 (Historical in LA)

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: Quebec and Ontario south to the Gulf Coast states; also British Columbia and Alaska

Recognition:

- Submerged aquatic plant, rooted in the substrate and having whitish to pinkish rhizomes
- Stems erect, submerged, slender, short, much branched
- Leaves egg shaped or rounded, up to 6 cm long by 1.5 cm wide, bases heart-shaped and clasping stem
- Flowers in dense spikes on the end of stalk

Flowering Time: June to October

Light Requirement: Submerged aquatic in open, clear water bodies

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Brackish or calcareous lakes, in Louisiana recorded only from Lake Pontchartrain. However, high salinities associated with drought during 1998 to 2001 have apparently extirpated this species in Lake Pontchartrain.

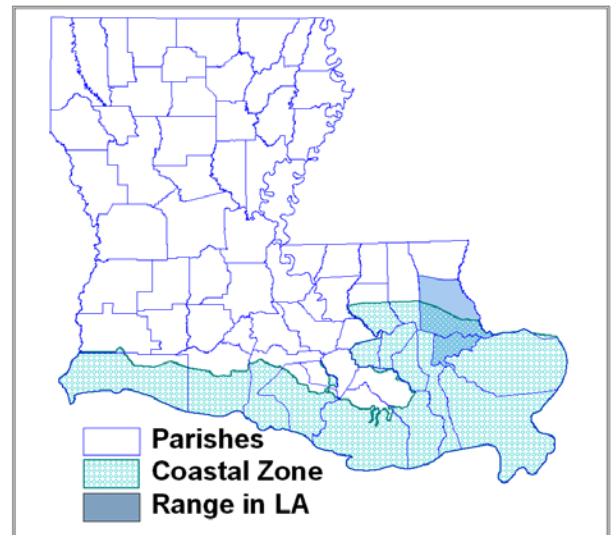
Threats:

Unnatural levels salt water intrusion

Beneficial Management Practices:

Maintain natural seasonal salinity variation in estuaries

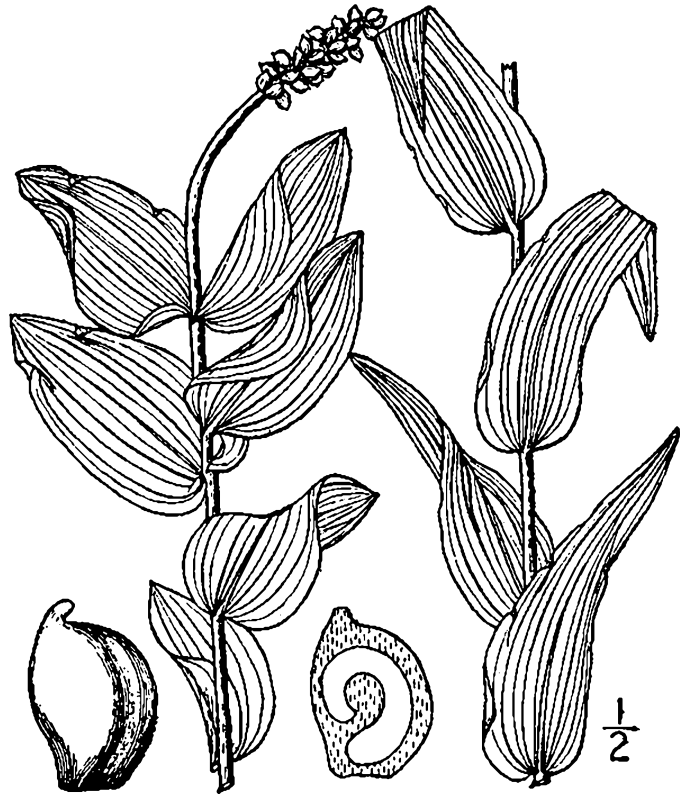
LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



Rare Plants of Louisiana



Illustration by Kurt Stuber; courtesy of University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 1: 80.

References:

- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: monocotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 712 pp.
- Tiner, R.W. 1993. Field Guide to coastal wetland plants of the southeastern United States. The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst. 328 pp.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.